

Update on the Interstate 5/El Toro Road Interchange Improvement Project and Direction to Complete the Environmental Documentation

Project Location



Measure M2 (M2) Freeway Program Context

- During development of M2, the Interstate 5 (I-5)/El Toro Road interchange was a top priority for the cities of Laguna Hills, Laguna Woods, and Lake Forest (Cities)
- M2 Ordinance (approved by voters on November 7, 2006)
 - Project D – I-5 local interchange upgrades:
 - Update and improve key I-5 interchanges, such as Avenida Pico, Avery Parkway, **El Toro Road**, La Paz Road, Ortega Highway, and others to relieve street congestion around older interchanges and on ramps. Specific improvements will be subject to approved plans developed in cooperation with local jurisdictions and affected communities
- Next 10 Delivery Plan (2024 Update)
 - I-5/El Toro Road Interchange Project to be environmentally cleared by 2026 and shelf-ready for future advancement

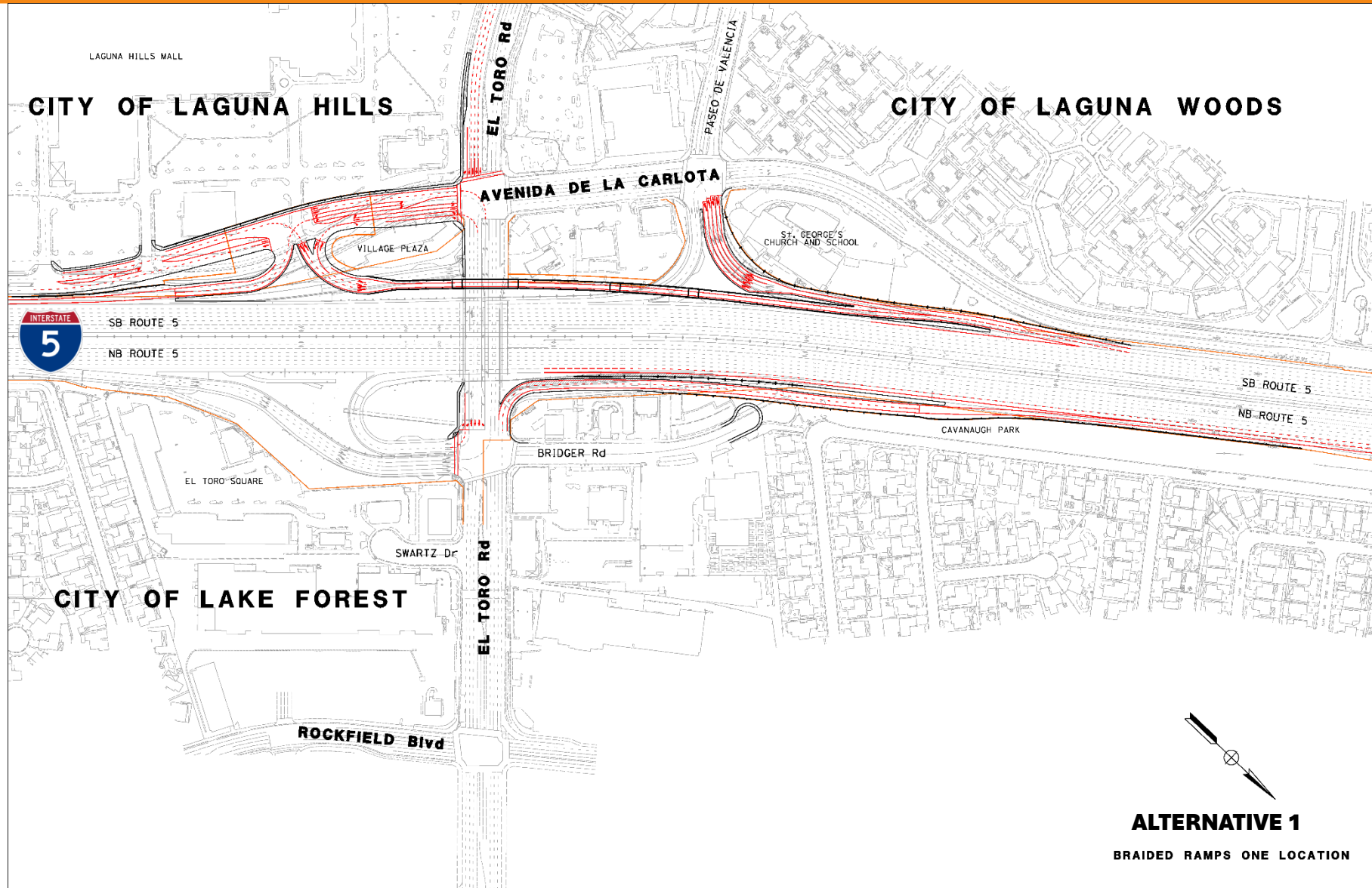
Project Background and Timeline

- February 2015 – Project study report considered 15 alternatives, and four build alternatives were recommended for further study
- May 2017 – California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) began Project Approval/Environmental Document (PA/ED) phase
- August 2018 to February 2019 – Design and right-of-way (ROW) impact workshops held between Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA), Caltrans, and the Cities. Two of four build alternatives were removed from further study
- April to May 2019 – Public circulation and review of draft environmental document with two build alternatives; no consensus reached on preferred alternative

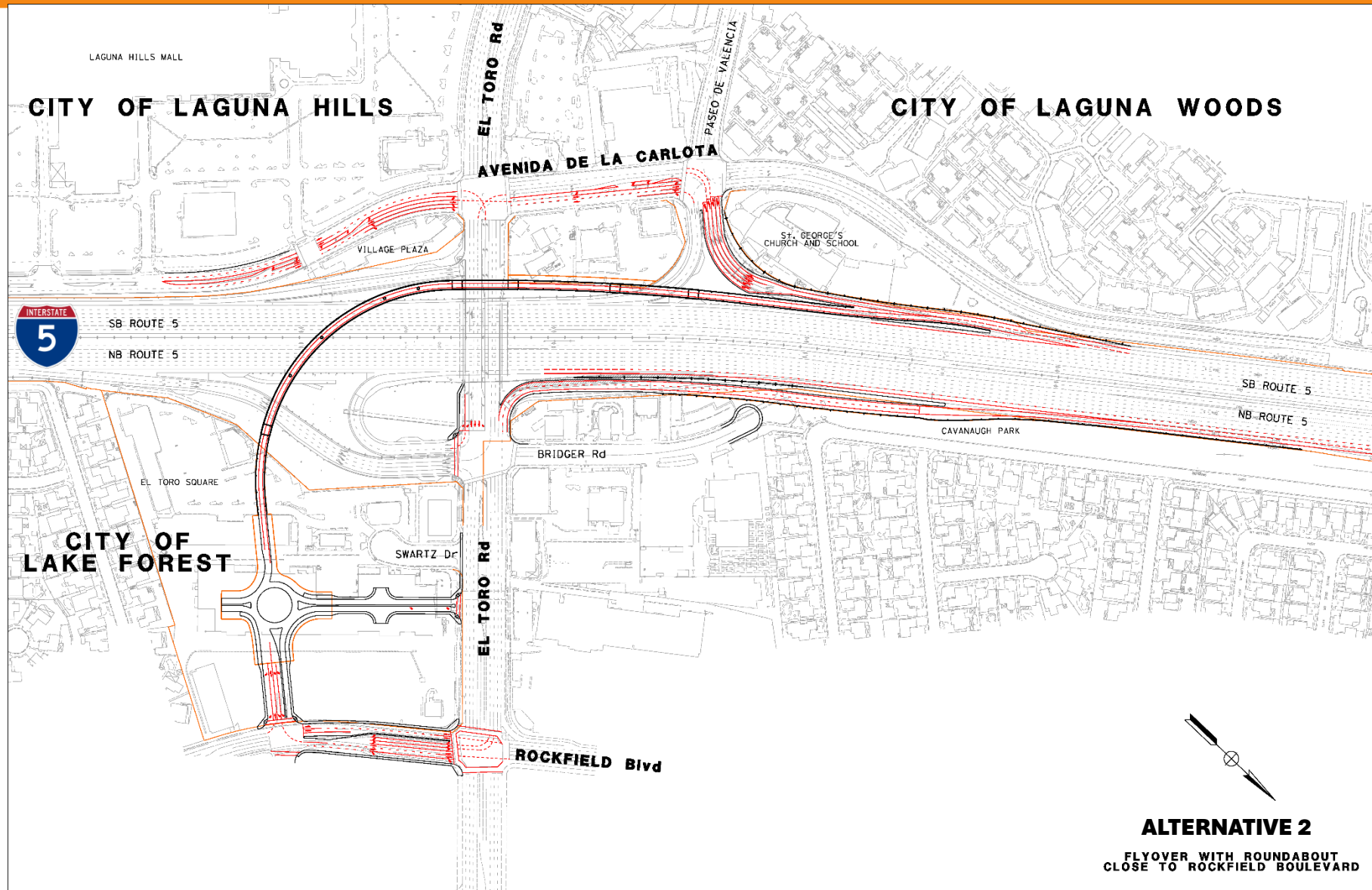
Project Background and Timeline (cont.)

- October 2021 – OCTA completed an alternatives assessment study coordinated with the Cities and Caltrans that studied seven alternatives
- March 2022 – OCTA, Cities, and Caltrans reach consensus on two alternatives to move forward with the PA/ED phase
- January 2023 – Caltrans and OCTA restart PA/ED phase
- Project update to OCTA Board of Directors in June 2023 – Project update to the city councils of Laguna Hills, Laguna Woods, and Lake Forest in June/July 2023
- Public scoping meeting – in person: July 2023; virtual: August 2023
- August 2023 to March 2024 – Public comment period and public summary report completed

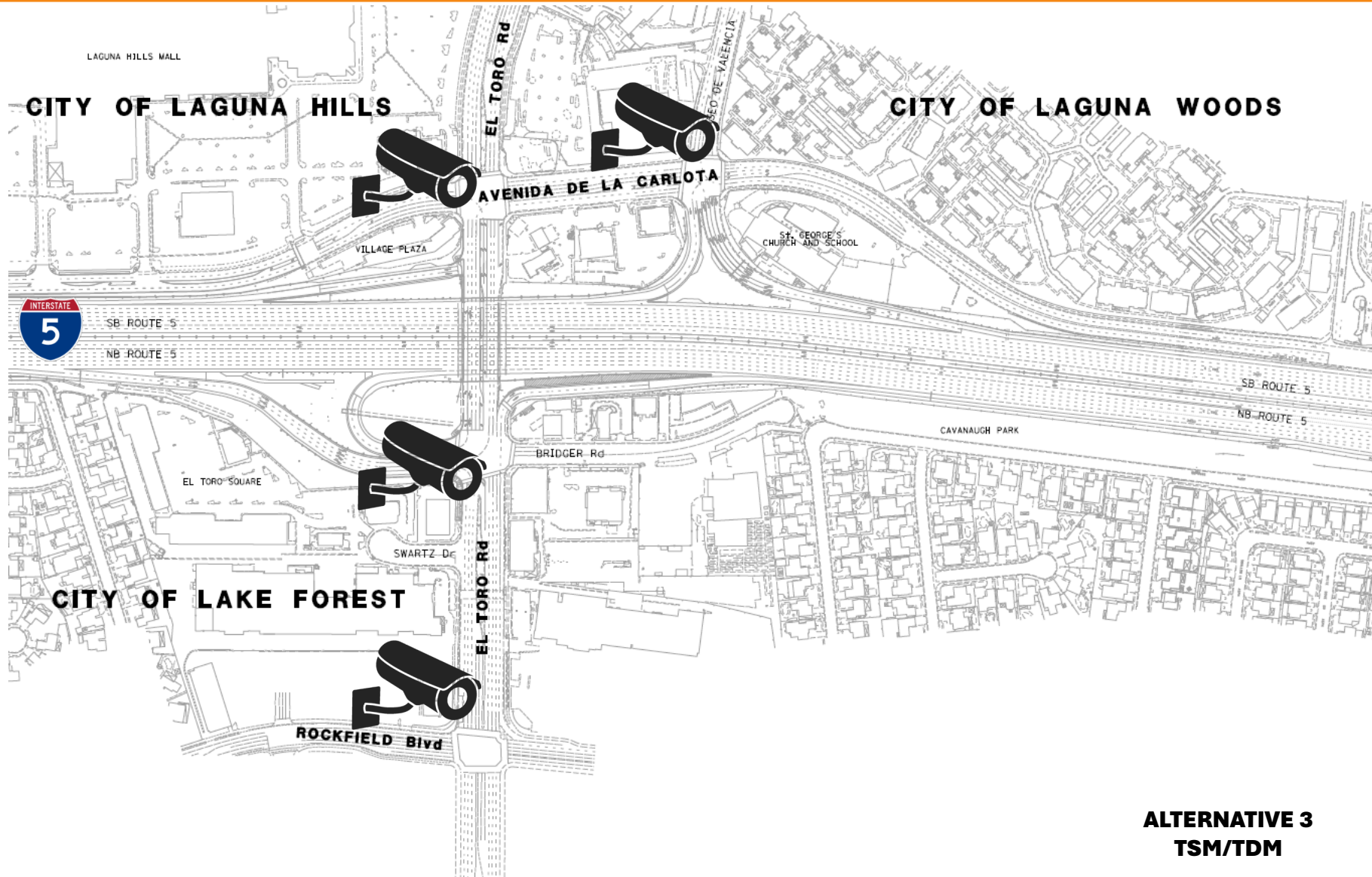
Alternative 1: Braided Ramps



Alternative 2: Flyover with Roundabout



Alternative 3: Transportation System Management and Transportation Demand Management (TSM/TDM)



Public Outreach

- Scoping Meetings
 - Held in July and August 2023
 - Online and print newspaper ads
 - Direct mail postcards
 - Local access television
- Presentations
 - City Council updates
 - Stakeholder briefings
- Collateral
 - Project webpage, email alerts, social media, flyers



octa.net/ElToroInterchange f i5ELTORO @i5ELTORO

WELCOME

EL TORO RD.
INTERCHANGE PROJECT

**PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING
OPEN HOUSE FORUM**
Wednesday, July 26, 2023
Doors Open: From 4 - 7 p.m.
Lake Forest Community Center
Public Event, Free Parking

**VIRTUAL SCOPING MEETING
OPEN HOUSE FORUM**
Thursday, August 3, 2023
4 - 7 p.m.
visit bit.ly/ETRopenhouse to register

Logos: Caltrans, OCTA, City of Laguna Hills, City of Fullerton, City of Orange

Next Steps

- With OCTA Board of Directors' direction, staff will proceed to:
 - Complete preliminary engineering and construction cost estimates – December 2025
 - Complete ROW estimates and environmental technical studies – Spring 2026
 - Approval of draft PA/ED – Spring 2026
 - Public hearing – Summer 2026
 - Select preferred alternative – Fall 2026
 - Approval of final PA/ED – December 2026